

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 6

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox

January 28, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 6—Relative to unmanned aircraft systems.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 6, as introduced, Fox. Unmanned aircraft systems.

Existing federal law, the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, provides for the integration of civil unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system by September 30, 2015. Existing federal law requires the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to develop and implement operational and certification requirements for the operation of public unmanned aircraft systems in the national airspace system by December 31, 2015.

This measure would request the Federal Aviation Administration to consider California as one of the 6 planned test sites for unmanned aircraft systems and integration of those systems into the next generation air transportation system.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, For more than five decades, the Federal Aviation
- 2 Administration (FAA) has compiled a proven track record of safely
- 3 introducing new technology and aircraft into the national airspace
- 4 system; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Most recently, the FAA has been working to ensure
- 6 the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems, commonly

1 known as drones, into the national airspace system, with the focus
2 being on safety for the nation's communities; and

3 WHEREAS, On February 14, 2012, President Obama signed
4 into law the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization and
5 Reform Act of 2012, which, among other things, requires the FAA
6 to designate six sites throughout the United States as unmanned
7 aircraft system test sites in order to safely integrate unmanned
8 aircraft systems into the national airspace system; and

9 WHEREAS, Unmanned aircraft systems are not currently
10 authorized in Class B airspace, which is airspace over most major
11 urban areas, and which contains the highest density of manned
12 aircraft in the national airspace system; and

13 WHEREAS, Unmanned aircraft systems perform port
14 surveillance for the United States Department of Homeland
15 Security, assist with scientific research and environmental
16 monitoring for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
17 (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
18 Administration, and perform valuable roles in conducting research,
19 firefighting efforts, disaster relief, humanitarian efforts, search and
20 rescue, law enforcement, military training, testing, and evaluation,
21 and in other areas; and

22 WHEREAS, Unmanned aircraft represent one of the fastest
23 growing segments of the aerospace industry, which is a vital part
24 of California's economy; and

25 WHEREAS, A study conducted by the Association for
26 Unmanned Vehicle Systems International indicates that the industry
27 has the potential to create 100,000 manufacturing jobs in the
28 provision of unmanned aircraft in the top two largest markets,
29 namely agriculture and public safety; and

30 WHEREAS, The designation and operation of test sites will be
31 a tool for testing all aspects of unmanned aircraft systems and will
32 allow for the intergration into the next generation air transportation
33 system; and

34 WHEREAS, Test sites will determine the safe designation of
35 airspace for integrated manned and unmanned flight operation in
36 the national airspace system, coordinate and leverage the resources
37 of NASA and the Department of Defense, address civil and public
38 unmanned aircraft systems, ensure the safety of unmanned aircraft
39 systems and related navigation procedures before those systems
40 are integrated into the national airspace system, and create

1 certification standards and air traffic requirements for unmanned
2 flight operations; and

3 WHEREAS, Once enabled, commercial unmanned aircraft
4 system markets will develop new markets and more efficient
5 applications, with a prediction by the FAA of roughly 10,000 active
6 commercial unmanned aircraft systems to be developed in five
7 years; and

8 WHEREAS, California has a long and successful history with
9 the aerospace community, from the development of the space
10 shuttle to the Mars rover, with hundreds of small-, medium-, and
11 larger-sized companies, such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin,
12 Northrup Grumman, Raytheon, and General Atomics, involved
13 with the technology that millions of individuals benefit from daily,
14 while fostering a rich environment of technology and hardware
15 for the aerospace industry; and

16 WHEREAS, California has the infrastructure already in place
17 as an appropriate unmanned aircraft vehicle test site, including the
18 airspace necessary for testing, using existing and proven test
19 ranges, world class educational institutions, a highly educated
20 workforce, and associated technology; and

21 WHEREAS, California is also home to the largest expected
22 release of deployed military personnel who could seamlessly
23 transition from their military deployment into many of the civilian
24 and defense-related jobs created by the unmanned aircraft test
25 industry; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
27 *California, jointly,* That the FAA is urged to consider California
28 as one of the six test sites for unmanned aircraft systems and
29 integration of those systems into the next generation air
30 transportation system; and be it further

31 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly submit copies
32 of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
33 Administration, the United States Secretary of Transportation,
34 each member of the United States Senate and House of
35 Representatives from California, and the author for appropriate
36 distribution.